

 KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY College of Health and Human Sciences Physician Assistant Program	Effective Date: January 1, 2020
	ARC-PA Standards Addressed: A3.15 e
POLICIES	
Responsible Party: Program Director	Revised:
Approved by: K-State PA Program Principal Faculty	
Subject: Technical Standards	
PURPOSE: To define the Technical Standards required for enrollment at the K-State PA program.	
POLICY STATEMENT: The technical standards set forth by the K-State PA program establish the essential qualities considered necessary for students to achieve the knowledge, skills and competencies of an entry-level physician assistant. The following essential function requirements must be met by all students after acceptance in order to enroll in or complete the PA program. Following their acceptance into the PA program, students are required to verify that they understand and meet these technical standards or that they believe that, with certain accommodations, they can meet the standards.	
Observation - This standard requires functional vision, hearing, and somatic sensation. A student must be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • observe demonstrations and visual presentations in lectures and laboratories. • observe patients accurately and completely both at a distance and closely. 	
Communication – A student must be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perceive nonverbal communication, speak intelligibly, hear sufficiently, and observe patients in order to elicit information. • elicit and transmit patient information in oral and written English to members of the health care team. • communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. • demonstrate reading skills at a level sufficient to accomplish curricular requirements and provide clinical care for patients. • complete appropriate medical records and documents in written and electronic form in a thorough and timely manner. 	
Sensory and Motor Coordination and Function – A student must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • possess motor skills sufficient to directly perform palpation, percussion, auscultation, and other basic diagnostic procedures. 	

- be able to execute motor movements required to provide basic medical care. Examples of basic medical care include, but are not limited to: airway management, placement of catheters, suturing, phlebotomy, application of sufficient pressure to control bleeding, simple obstetrical maneuvers, etc. *(Such actions require coordination of gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision).*
- be able to manipulate equipment and instruments to perform basic laboratory tests and procedures.
- be able to transport themselves from one location to another in a timely fashion in order to facilitate patient care responsibilities and to receive educational training.

Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities - Problem solving is the critical skill demanded of Physician Assistants. This requires that students have the ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize. **A student must be able to:**

- incorporate new information from peers, teachers, and the medical literature in formulating diagnoses and plans.
- independently access, and interpret medical histories or files.
- identify significant findings from history, physical examination, and laboratory data.
- provide reasoned explanations for likely diagnoses and prescribed medications and therapy.
- recall and retain information in an efficient and timely manner.

Behavioral and Social Attributes – A student must:

- possess the ability to use their intellectual capacity, exercise good judgment, and promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis under potentially stressful and/or emergency circumstances.
- be able to accept criticism and respond by appropriate modification of behavior.
- be able to develop mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and colleagues.
- have a high level of compassion for others with sufficient interpersonal skills to interact positively with people from all levels of society, all ethnic backgrounds, and all belief systems.
- be able to adapt to changing environments and to learn in the face of uncertainties inherent in the practice of medicine.
- be able to use supervision appropriately and act independently, when indicated.

These five areas of enumerated skills and abilities are the minimum attributes required of applicants for enrollment to the K-State PA program, and of students who are candidates for graduation. The PA program is committed to meeting the special needs of students within established legal and institutional guidelines. However, the integrity of the PA curriculum, and the required mental and physical capabilities to fulfill the obligation of that education, must be sustained. Therefore, the program has set the following as disqualifying for admission: the inability to complete the skills required for certification in Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and the inability to

perform a head-to-toe physical examination within an allotted time. We encourage applicants to consider these requirements when applying to our program. For questions concerning the technical standards or requesting accommodations, contact the Student Access Center at accesscenter@k-state.edu.